



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, DC 20240

SEP 17 2024

The Honorable Catherine Chavers  
Chairwoman, Bois Forte Band  
of Chippewa  
5344 Lakeshore Drive  
Nett Lake, Minnesota 55772

Dear Chairwoman Chavers:

On August 12, 2024, the Office of Indian Gaming received the Addendum to the Tribal-State Compact for Control of Class III Blackjack (Compact) between the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa (Tribe) and the State of Minnesota (State) providing for the regulation of Class III banked card games by the Tribe.

The Compact permits the Tribe to operate any banking Class III card games on its Indian lands if the State permits such games. The Compact clarifies that it does not alter the Tribe's ability to operate Blackjack as specified under the Blackjack Compact. The Compact includes applicable definitions, certain regulatory standards incorporated from the Blackjack Compact, provisions related to background investigations, dispute resolution, and enforcement, and requires the Tribe to adopt additional regulatory standards governing the conduct of card games.

We have completed our review of the Compact and conclude that it does not violate the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), any other provision of Federal law that does not relate to jurisdiction over gaming on Indian lands, or the trust obligations of the United States to Indians. 25 U.S.C. § 2710(d)(8)(B). Therefore, pursuant to my delegated authority and Section 11 of IGRA, I approve the Compact. 25 U.S.C. § 2710(d)(8)(A). The Compact takes effect when the notice of this approval is published in the *Federal Register*, as required by 25 U.S.C § 2710(d)(8)(D).

A similar letter is being sent to the Honorable Tim Walz, Governor of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Bryan Newland  
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Enclosure

**Addendum to Tribal-State Compact for Control of  
Class III Blackjack on the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Reservation in Minnesota for  
Class III Card Games**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Minnesota (hereafter “State”) and the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa (hereafter “Band”) have previously negotiated and executed a gaming compact entitled “Tribal-State Compact for the Control of Class III Blackjack on the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Reservation in Minnesota” dated September 25, 1991 (hereafter “Compact”); and

**WHEREAS**, Section 2.2 and Section 2.3 of the Compact allow the State and the Band to negotiate and execute a Compact, including an amendment to an existing Compact, for “any other form of Class III gaming which the State permits for charitable, commercial or governmental purposes”; and

**WHEREAS**, the State expressly permits the operation of Class III Card Games at commercial horseracing facilities in the State subject to the licensing and regulatory provisions of Minnesota Statute § 240.01 et seq., and the State may now and/or hereafter permit the operation of other Class III Card Games in the State for charitable, commercial, or governmental purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Band has adopted a Tribal Gaming Ordinance which permits and provides for the regulation and control of Class III Card Games; and

**WHEREAS**, the State and the Band wish to add an addendum to the Compact to permit the Band to conduct Class III Card Games on the Band’s Indian Lands; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual undertakings and agreements hereinafter set forth, the Band and the State enter into the following Addendum to the Compact.

1.0 Scope

- 1.1 This Addendum permits and shall govern the operation of Class III Card Games on the Band’s Indian Lands, except that nothing in this Addendum shall affect or alter the terms of the Compact with respect to the operation of the game of Blackjack, nor shall it alter or affect the terms of the Tribal-State Compact for Control of Class III Video Games of Chance on the Band’s Reservation.
- 1.2 The Band may operate any Class III Card Game on its Indian Lands pursuant to the IGRA and in accordance with this Addendum, provided that the state currently or hereafter permits such game for charitable, commercial, or governmental purposes by any person, organization, or entity in the State of Minnesota.
- 1.3 This Addendum is entered into pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, 25 U.S.C. § 2710 (d), Minnesota Statute § 3.9221, and the inherent sovereign authority of the Band and the Band’s laws.

- 1.4 If a court of competent jurisdiction finds and provision of this Addendum to be invalid or illegal, such provision shall be severed from this Addendum and the remainder of the Addendum and Compact shall remain in full force and effect. If a court of competent jurisdiction finds this Addendum to be invalid or illegal in its entirety, this Addendum shall be severed from the Compact and the remainder of the Compact shall remain in full force and effect.
- 1.5 This Addendum shall become effective upon execution by the Governor of the State, ratification by the Band, approval by the Secretary of the Interior and publication of the approval in the Federal Register pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

## 2.0 Definitions

- 2.1 “Blackjack” has the meaning ascribed to it in Section 1.02 of the Compact.
- 2.2 “Banking Card Game” means (a) any card game where the house participates in the game and takes on all players, collects from all losers, and pays all winners, and (b) any of the other “banking card games,” as such term is used under 25 U.S.C. § 2703(7)(B) or any successor statute thereof.
- 2.3 “Class III Card Game” means any Banking Card Game. For purposes of this Addendum, Class III Card Game does not include the game of Blackjack governed by the terms of the Compact.
- 2.4 “Compact” means the Tribal-State Compact for Control of Class III Blackjack on the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Reservation in Minnesota, in effect upon the execution of this Addendum or as amended thereafter.
- 2.5 “Band” means the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, a federally recognized Indian tribe.
- 2.6 “IGRA” means the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, 25 U.S.C. §§2701-2721 and 18 U.S.C. § 1166-1168.
- 2.7 “Indian Lands” means the Band’s Reservation and all other Indian Lands (as defined by § 2703(4) of the IGRA or any successor statute thereof) over which the Band exercises governmental authority.
- 2.8 “State” means the State of Minnesota, including the Governor and the Department of Public Safety, acting by and through its duly appointed Commissioner.

## 3.0 Regulatory Standards

- 3.1 The following regulatory standards from the Compact shall be incorporated into this Addendum and shall apply to the operation of Class III Card Games:

- (a) Sections 4.2 and 4.3.
  - (b) Sections 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, and Section 6.
- 3.2 The Band shall develop and adopt regulatory standards for the operation of each Class III Card Game, including but not limited to:
  - (a) The type and number of decks of cards to be used in each game and requirements for cards dealt from a shoe or by hand;
  - (b) Wagering, including limits, and when and how wagers are made;
  - (c) Opening and closing of tables and handling of cash and chips; and
  - (d) Oversight and surveillance.
- 3.3 The regulatory standards shall govern the play and operation of Class III Card Games on the Band's Indian Lands. Upon final adoption or amendment, regulatory standards related to Class III Card Games shall be promptly submitted to the Commissioner of Public Safety.
- 4.0 Enforcement and Disputes
  - 4.1 Agents of the Department of Public Safety shall, upon the presentation of valid identification, have the right to inspect all premises used for the play of Class III Card Games, and may inspect all premises, equipment, records, documents, or other items related to the play of Class III Card Games, in each case to the extent necessary to verify compliance with this Addendum. Inspections conducted pursuant to this Section shall be made during normal business hours and shall be conducted in a manner that does not disrupt normal business operations.
  - 4.2 Violations by the Band of this Addendum shall be handled as follows:
    - (a) Upon detection of an alleged violation of this Addendum, the Department of Public Safety shall notify the Band and provide a detailed description of the alleged violation (each such notice, an "Alleged Violation Notice"). The Band shall have thirty (30) (or such longer period as deemed necessary by the Band in good faith) days to investigate the alleged violation. If a violation is found to exist, the Band shall order corrective action and shall provide documentation to the Department of Public Safety that demonstrates that the issue has been addressed.
    - (b) If the Band disputes that an alleged violation exists, the Band shall notify the Commissioner of Public Safety in writing of the basis for the dispute and the parties shall, within fifteen (15) days, meet in an effort to resolve the matter. If an agreed upon resolution cannot be reached, each party may pursue any and all remedies available to it under the IGRA.

- (c) If the corrective action order issued by the Band is not implemented, or if the Band does not take any action to address an undisputed violation described in an Alleged Violation Notice, the Commissioner of Public Safety may issue a formal Notice of Non-Compliance to the Band and may pursue any and all remedies available to it under the IGRA.

DATED: July 18, 2024

DATED: 06/05/2024

STATE OF MINNESOTA

BOIS FORTE BAND OF CHIPPEWA



TIM WALZ  
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE CHAVERS  
CHAIRPERSON

Consistent with 25 U.S.C. §2710(d)(8)(A), “The Secretary is authorized to approve any Tribal-State compact entered into between an Indian tribe and a State governing gaming on Indian lands of such Indian tribe.” Therefore, the *Addendum to Tribal-State Compact for Control of Class III Blackjack on the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Reservation in Minnesota for Class III Card Games* hereby approved.

APPROVED

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



Bryan Newland  
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

SEP 17 2024

Date